

Parent / Carer Bulletin

Care • Inspire • Succeed

Week Commencing Monday 13th January 2025

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family have had a wonderful break and that this last week has not been too much of a culture shock.

I hope that our Year 13 students have not been too stressed this week with their mock exams. Staff will be marking the papers and providing feedback to students in lessons to help focus them for their summer exams. I am not trying to frighten you when I say that the first written exam is about 12 school weeks away.

We also have our Year 11 subject evening this coming week. This is a really important opportunity to meet the subject teachers and get some specific guidance on what they need to do. If there are any issues, please do contact the school.

Mr Farrer

WEEK A	CALENDAR - TERM 3
Monday 13 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y13 Mock Practical Exams Begin
Tuesday 14 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y8 HPV Vaccinations Day
Wednesday 15 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y13 Drama Mock Exam
Thursday 16 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y10 Reports IssuedY13 PE Mock EAPIY13 Mock MFL ExamY11 Subject Evening (Online)
Friday 17 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6th Form Bouldering Trip

WEEK B	
Monday 20 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Tuesday 21 st January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y13 Graphics Exam 8:35am – 3:00pm
Wednesday 22 nd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y13 Practical Exams End
Thursday 23 rd January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y9 Options Evening 4:30pm – 7:00pm
Friday 24 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Y13 Photography Exam 8:35am – 3:00pm6th Form Bouldering Trip

In this week's bulletin:

- HPV Information – action required
- Timetable for Y12 Criminology Exam
- Recommended Reading Lists for the English Department
- House Points – which House has taken the lead this week?

.... And lots more!

To report a student absence please ring the Attendance Line by 8:30am on 01225 309501

From: School Aged Immunisation Team

An email has been sent to parents/carers to request them to consent/decline the Year 8 HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccination. This will take place in **Trinity Hall on Tuesday 14th January 2025** and students with consent will receive appointment times during tutorials on Tuesday morning. A "mop up" session will be held later this year should your child be unwell that day.

The HPV vaccine is offered to all boys and girls in Year 8 (aged 12/13 years) because the evidence is clear that the HPV vaccine helps protect both boys and girls from HPV-related cancers. More than 280 million doses of the HPV vaccine have been given worldwide, including 120 million doses in the US and over 10 million in the UK.

The HPV vaccine used in the NHS vaccination schedule is Gardasil 9 and protects against 9 of the types of HPV which can cause cancer and genital warts for most people with just one dose. Full details of the vaccination product used, including full contents can be accessed at:

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/7330/smpc#gref>

To give consent for your child to receive the vaccination, or to decline, please click on the link below:

www.bswschoolagedimms.co.uk/Forms/HPV

School Code: WT137057

You can also use this link for further information about the vaccination before you provide your response.

If you have any difficulties completing the consent, please contact our Immunisation Team for support:

Phone: 0300 247 0082

Email: vcl.immunisations@nhs.net

Please respond as soon as possible to accept or decline the vaccination. Where no response is received, all young people will be offered the opportunity to discuss the vaccination and self-consent if appropriate.

Once completed you will receive an automated email with a reference number as confirmation. Please check your junk/spam box as well as your in box and contact the team if it is not received.

Thank you, School Aged Immunisation Team

From: Careers Team

Work Experience Forms

Thank you to those Year 10 and 12 students who have returned their completed work experience forms.

The deadline date for their return is **Monday 10th March**.

If you have any questions or need any help please contact careers@st-laurence.com

House Points

Ashley	Budbury	Conigre	Huntingdon	Westfield
				
72078	74103	72234	75270	69697

To report a student absence please ring the Attendance Line by 8:30am on 01225 309501

COMING SOON!!

Have you noticed how much your children have shot up over the holidays! Have they outgrown their school uniforms – or certainly will by February half term break.

HELP IS AT HAND!

St Laurence School will be holding a second hand uniform sale before the end of Term 3 – look out for the date in next week's Parent/Carer Bulletin. We are most grateful for donations of uniform in good, clean condition which can be dropped off at Reception during school hours.

DO YOU KNOW...?

There is a parent run Facebook page dedicated to buying, selling or swapping uniform. Join the group at:
St Laurence Buy Sell Swap School Items / Uniform

From: English Department

The importance of reading

When we study subjects at school, we cannot learn effectively without a good understanding of the language of those subjects. When we study Biology, we are not just studying plants and animals: we are studying *language about* plants and animals.

We know that students who **read widely, and read for pleasure**, tend to learn more in their school subjects, and do better in those subjects, than students who do not. Reading widely increases our knowledge about the world, improves our vocabulary, and opens our minds to a great range of ideas about how we live.

At St Laurence, we study whole literary texts in English lessons in all years. We also make access to the ILC available in order to choose reading books, and we try to encourage students to have a reading book on the go at all times – whether this is the latest novel in a series that students have been reading, a biography of a sporting hero, or a collection of short stories.

We recognise that not everyone will enjoy every book but we know that there is “a book for everyone”. As such, we actively encourage students to discover and explore a range of books, and the ILC has lots of books with stories that cover the whole human experience. We want to challenge our students to develop their own reading journeys, and in doing so increase their insight, empathy and understanding of the wider world.

It's important for students to experiment with what they read – for them not to get stuck in a rut or read books that are too easy. The staff in the ILC have an exceptional knowledge of all kinds of books that students will enjoy! The ILC runs competitions and events throughout the year, and these are particularly good at suggesting next steps or new challenges for reading.

St Laurence Reads is a weekly tutorial activity where everyone in the school reads the same book and discusses it, this helps to underline how important we think reading is at St Laurence.

Reading isn't just something for English lessons: being a good, fluent reader helps students across school – and in **their whole life**. And, aside from this, in a world that can be dominated by the consumption of fleeting digital snippets, the feeling of getting immersed in a good book is simply one of the most **calming, rewarding and enjoyable** there is.

We have produced, with help from colleagues in the ILC, the following wider reading lists that complement the schemes of learning that years 7, 8 and 9 are respectively following at this point in the academic year. We hope your children can enjoy some of these.

English Wider Reading at St Laurence

Year 7
Term 3 and 4
Stories from the Past



Arthur – High King of Britain – Michael Morpurgo
 Arthur – The Seeing Stone – Kevin Crossley-Holland
 Here Lies Arthur – Philip Reeve
 The Short Knife – Elen Caldecott
 Under a Dancing Sky – Laura Wood
 Dragons at Crumbling Castle – Terry Pratchett
 The Mab – Matt Brown and Eloise Williams
 The Highwayman – Alfred Noyes
 The Fool's Girl – Celia Rees
 Young Merlin – Tony Bradman
 King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table – Roger Lancelyn Green

More of a challenge

The Once and Future King – TH White
 Kidnapped – Robert Louis Stevenson
 Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson
 The Bride's Farewell – Nicola Morgan
 King of Shadows – Susan Cooper
 Legendborn - Tracy Deonn



English Wider Reading at St Laurence

Year 8
Term 3 and 4
Reading the World



The Child's Elephant – Rebecca Campbell-Johnson
 The Wall –William Sutcliffe
 The Kin – Peter Dickinson
 Siberia – Ann Halam
 The Explorer – Katherine Rundell
 Running on the Roof of the World – Jess Butterworth
 Swimming against the Storm – Jess Butterworth
 When Stars are Scattered – Omar Mohamed
 When Life gives you Mangoes – Kereen Getten
 Bone Talk – Candy Gourlay
 The Green Bicycle – Haifaa Al Mousur
 The Middle of Nowhere – Geraldine McCaughrean
 Firekeeper's Daughter – Angeline Bouley
 Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town – Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock
 Kidnap in the Caribbean – Lauren St John

More of a challenge

Noughts and Crosses – Malorie Blackman
 Jock of the Bushveld – Percy Fitzpatrick
 Spud – John Van De Ruit
 The Call of the Wild – Jack London
 The Unforgotten Coat – Frank Cottrell Boyce
 The Princess and the Foal – Stacy Gregg
 Echo Mountain – Lauren Wolk



English Wider Reading at St Laurence

Year 9
Term 3 and 4
Conflict



War Horse - Michael Morpurgo
 Private Peaceful - Michael Morpurgo
 The Silver Sword - Ian Serraillier
 The Machine Gunners – Robert Westall
 Postcards from No Man's Land – Aidan Chambers
 Goodnight Mr Tom - Michelle Magorian
 Soldier Dog - Sam Angus
 The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas - John Boyne
 Maus - Art Spiegelman
 Carrie's War – Nina Bowden
 I am David - Anne Holm
 Code Name Verity – Elizabeth Wein
 In Darkness – Nick Lake
 The Skylark's War – Hilary McKay
 The Swallow's Flight – Hilary McKay
 When the world was ours – Liz Kessler
 After the War – Tom Palmer
 D-Day Dog – Tom Palmer
 Orphan Monster Spy – Matt Killeen
 Five Children on the Western Front – Kate Saunders
 They Called Us the Enemy - George Takei
 The Red Ribbon - Lucy Adlington

More of a challenge

All Quiet on the Western Front, Erich Maria Remarque
 Letters from a Lost Generation – Vera Brittan
 The Book Thief – Marcus Zusak



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.

1 START SMALL AND EARLY

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine a week before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.

2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.

3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.

4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.

5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or choosing the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.

6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.

7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school, whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.

8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.

9 PREP TOGETHER

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently, so it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education easier possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an education expert with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Passionate about empowering adults who spend time with and care for young people, Becky specialises in creating practical strategies that promote wellbeing and resilience in children during life's transitions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page 40



St Laurence School

has joined the following SOCIAL MEDIA platforms to keep you informed of some of the great work your children are doing at school.

We will post news and photos from school trips, dance and drama performances, STEM events and lots more. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and “like” and “share” our stories.

FOLLOW

LIKE  **& SHARE**



facebook.com/StLaurenceSch




instagram.com/stlaurencesch/



twitter.com/stlaurencesch

www.st-laurence.com




V Code

STEM Code & Careers Bootcamp
Saturday 22nd February 2025
At: University of Bath Campus
For Girls in Yr 8 to Y 13.
Free Event

In this workshop you'll:

- **Learn Coding Basic:** Join an interactive session on coding skills.
- **Hear from Women in STEM:** Gain insights from professionals about their careers and experiences.
- **Q&A with Students:** Chat with current students to learn about studying and thriving as a woman in STEM.



Learn More & Register: www.mightygirls.co.uk

FOLK* ROCK*
ACOUSTIC* ROOTS*
CHOIRS* ALL PROFITS DONATED TO CHARITY

5 STAGES OF LIVE MUSIC



BRADFORD ROOTS FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 18 JAN

FOOD BY MERAKI AND OAK OVEN PIZZA

WINTER FESTIVAL

SAT 18 JAN
11AM - 10PM

BAR SELLING KETTLESMITH'S BEER AND HONEY'S CIDER

MINI MAKER'S MARKET
WASSAIL SINGING & DANCING
KIDS' ARTS & CRAFTS

Raising money for:



All Day Tickets (from 11am) £25 / £13.50
Evening Tickets (from 7pm) £12
wiltshireremusic.org.uk

WILTSHIRE LIVE MUSIC CENTRE
BRADFORD ON AVON
Charity number: 1026160